

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 948

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8078

LIMDIS

FOR EB/ORF/FSE - BOSWORTH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG JA

SUBJ: IEA: LONG-TERM COOPERATION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 140522

1. EMBASSY PASSED REFTEL MESSAGE TO TOYONAGA WHO AFTER CONSULTING WITH ENERGY AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL MASUDA AND TRADE POLICY DIRECTOR GENERAL HASHIMOTO, REPLIED THAT MITI WOULD WELCOME ENDERS/BOSWORTH VISIT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT MITI MINISTER KOMOTO IS ON RECORD AS FAVORING DIRECT TALKS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON ENERGY AND THAT VISIT COULD CLEAR UP NUMBER OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN JAPAN AS TO U.S. ENERGY POLICIES. TOYONAGA STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS RESPONSE DID NOT REPRESENT COORDINATED GOJ POSITION AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY SHOULD BE CONTACTED DIRECTLY CONCERNING PROPOSED VISIT.

2. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: EMBASSY, AND PRESUMABLY TOYONAGA, IS AWARE FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY NOT FAVOR VISIT BY RANKING U.S. OFFICIALS ON IEA MATTERS AT THIS TIME. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS IN RECENT WEEKS, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN LUKEWARM AT BEST TOWARDS IEA EXERCISES, ESPECIALLY THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND HAVE BEEN DISTINCTLY NEGATIVE IN RESPONDING TO

SUGGESTIONS THAT AUTHORITATIVE U.S. OFFICIALS
VISIT JAPAN TO PRESENT U.S. POLICIES AND EXCHANGE VIEWS.
FURTHERMORE, CRITICS OF U.S. POLICIES, BOTH AMERICAN AND
FOREIGN, HAVE PARTICIPATED RECENTLY IN VARIOUS SEMI-OFFICIAL
SEMINARS IN TOKYO ON ENERGY MATTERS.
IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
WISHES TO AVOID RISK THAT A HIGH VISIBILITY U.S.
CONSULTATION WITH JAPAN ON IEA MATTERS COULD SPARK
DIET INTERPELLATIONS ON JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARD IEA
PROGRAMS WITH UNPREDICTABLE OUTCOME. GIVEN NUMBER OF
IMPORTANT ISSUES REQUIRING DIET APPROVAL
STILL HANGING FIRE, THIS
IS AN UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN, BUT EFFECT HAS BEEN TO
LEAVE ENERGY FIELD TO THE CRITICS OF U.S. POLICY
(SEE TOKYO 4120 AND 4350 THIS CONNECTION). DIET SESSION IS
SCHEDULED TO END JULY 4.
EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT VISIT BY ENDERS/BOSWORTH,
AND SHOULD HIS SCHEDULE PERMIT, UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON,
COULD BE USEFUL AT PROPER TIME TO ELUCIDATE IN DEPTH
U.S. ENERGY POLICIES. IF ENDERS/BOSWORTH DECIDE TO VISIT
JAPAN NEXT WEEK, WE FURTHER RECOMMEND SIMPLY INFORMING
GOJ THEY ARE COMING (AND REQUEST APPROPRIATE APPOINT-
MENTS) RATHER THAN INQUIRING IF VISIT CONVENIENT TO GOJ
AS THE LATTER MAY EVOKE POLITE REBUFF. IF THEY COME
WE SUGGEST MINIMAL OR ZERO CONTACT WITH PRESS WHILE HERE.
AS TO TIMING, IF A PRE-JUNE 30 VISIT HERE IS CONSIDERED
ESSENTIAL, THEN SINCE A JAPAN-CANADA ECONOMIC MINISTERS
MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 23-24, JUNE 25-27 WOULD
BE BETTER.
HODGSON

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